

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **CANCEL** claims 1-17 as follows.

Please **ADD** claims 18-48 as follows.

A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims are provided below.

18. A device for removing and smearing cells for a cytological examination comprising a handle having a device at a front end thereof for collection of the cells and a stabilizing device acting in a longitudinal extension of the device, the device being embodied as a cap arranged and fixed on a carrier, the carrier including a base surface with a diameter smaller than a diameter of a base surface of the device, the stabilizing device is embodied as a tip projecting into the device, the tip being surrounded on all sides by a foam material, wherein the device is embodied as a cone tapering towards the front and the handle has a predetermined breaking point.

19. The device according to claim 18, wherein the device is arranged to rotate relative to the handle.

20. The device according to claim 18, wherein the device has a foam material layer on its outer side.

21. The device according to claim 18, wherein the device is composed of foam material.

22. The device according to claim 18, wherein the carrier has a base surface with a diameter of 9 mm to 11 mm and a diameter of the device is 12 mm to 18 mm.

23. The device according to claim 18, further comprising a locking mechanism for torsionally rigid positioning of the device on the handle.

24. The device according to claim 23, wherein the locking mechanism is a positive engagement element configured to be pushed along a longitudinal extension of the handle, the positive engagement element, in the locked position, engages in at least one correspondingly embodied recess.

25. The device according to claim 24, wherein the positive engagement element is one of a flattening, a shoulder, a projection, and a toothing in a sawtooth profile.

26. The device according to claim 24, further comprising a spring element loads the positive engagement element in the unlocking direction.

27. The device according to claim 18, wherein the carrier is pivoted relative to the handle and includes one of a positive engagement element and a recess.

28. The device according to claim 18, wherein the handle includes one of an angular cross-section and a round cross-section with a structured surface.

29. The device according to claim 18, wherein the device has a foam material for a cell collection with a pore number of 25 to 40 ppi.

30. The device according to claim 29, wherein the pore number is 32 to 36 ppi,

31. The device according to claim 30, wherein the pore number is 34 ppi.

32. The device according to claim 18, wherein the device has a foam material for the cell collection with a compressive strength of 2 to 6 kPa.

33. The device according to claim 32, wherein the compressive strength is 3 to 5 kPa.

34. The device according to claim 33, wherein the compressive strength is 4 kPa.

35. The device according to claim 18, wherein the device has a cone angle of 20° to 35°.

36. The device according to claim 35, wherein the cone angle is 25° to 30°.

37. The device according to claim 36, wherein the cone angle is 27°.

38. The device according to claim 18, wherein the stabilizing device has a length of 85% to 95% of a length of the device.

39. The device according to claim 38, wherein the stabilizing device has a length of 87% to 93% of the length of the device.

40. The device according to claim 39, wherein the stabilizing device has a length of 90% of the length of the device.

41. The device according to claim 18, wherein the handle has a diameter of 3 mm to 8 mm.

- 42. The device according to claim 41, wherein the diameter is 4 mm to 7 mm.
- 43. The device according to claim 42, wherein the diameter is 5 mm to 6 mm.
- 44. The device according to claim 18, wherein the handle has a total length of 150 mm to 250 mm.
- 45. The device according to claim 44, wherein the handle has a total length of 180 mm to 220 mm.
- 46. The device according to claim 45, wherein the handle has a total length of 200 mm.
- 47. The device according to claim 18, wherein the carrier has a base surface with a diameter of 10 mm,
- 48. The device according to claim 47, wherein the base surface has a diameter of 15 mm.